



# LANGUAGE ARTS

# 1

## FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

## FIRST GRADE

### What to expect:

In first grade, children will build on the foundational skills from kindergarten to become more independent readers and writers. First grade is an important period for literary growth. Many children begin the year with limited reading and writing skills. They begin to read simple stories with common words and then move on to more complex stories with longer sentences and more challenging vocabulary. Writing develops throughout the year, beginning with children writing letters, and later, sentences with capitalization and punctuation.

This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade ELA. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Speak using longer sentences and words than during the previous year.
- Sound out words with short and long vowels like *cat*, *rope*, *week*, *boat*.
- Use color and number words in writing.
- Write sentences using capital letters and punctuation.
- Learn and use new words.
- Describe or retell a story that has been read aloud or independently.
- Begin to use books and technology to answer questions and find information.
- Explore more challenging books than in kindergarten.

### What to do at home:

- Write letters on cards and place them in alphabetical order.
- Read make-believe stories and stories about real people and events with your child.
- Read to your child, have him or her read to you or take turns reading pages.
- Challenge yourself and your child to use words from the books you are reading together in conversations.
- Encourage your child to explore magazines, newspaper articles and kid-friendly websites to find new information.
- Encourage your child to write stories or things that interest him or her in a notebook.
- Point out and describe the meaning of new words you find in books and in the world around you.



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### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore his or her world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw and/or showed today?

### Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming independent readers need time to read alone and with others. Families should take time to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

#### DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

#### AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

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